



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

Raising Equity to enhance Macedonian Competitiveness

On September 25, 2008 the USAID Competitiveness project in cooperation with Euro-Phoenix Financial Advisors Ltd., is hosting the first of the series of seminars "Business breakfast" aimed at encouraging equity investments and furthering Macedonia competitiveness. The first seminar will focus on how Macedonian entrepreneurs can attract international investment and will provide an overview of a typical process associated with receiving an investment from abroad.

"The overall goal of this seminar is to provide a demonstration for companies interested in receiving equity financing and Foreign Direct Investments. This will increase Macedonia's regional presence and generate a significant number of new jobs" - said Marcia Wong, USAID Economic Growth Office Director.

"We are here to address questions that owners of Macedonian companies may have about how to attract FDI, describe a typical process for attracting capital and identify types of investors" – stated Mr. Les Nemethy, CEO of Euro-Phoenix, chairman of the seminar.

The workshop targets Macedonian firms best situated to receive international financing. The seminars feature a combination of presentations, guest speakers and Q&A sessions, and will provide the opportunity for firms to directly contact potential investors.

Euro-Phoenix is an independent corporate finance advisory firm based in Budapest, Hungary, focused on corporate financial advisory services, Mergers & Acquisitions and privatization, in Central Europe. Mr. Les Nemethy is the former CEO of Hungary's second largest telecom operator, Invitel, and former head of the transactions department in the Hungarian Privatization Agency.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.